

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 14257 031641Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CAB-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 /051 W
-----008949 031644Z /46

O 031633Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0975
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM CHANGE OF GUAGE

REF: STATE 112083; PARIS 14191

1. EMBASSY MINECON MET MAY 3 WITH DE SEDOUY, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF GENERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INCLUDING CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS AT QUAI (RECENTLY REPLACED CUVILLIER). THE MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR OTHER PURPOSES BUT DE SEDOUY ASKED THAT IT BE MOVED UP SO THAT HE COULD ONCE AGAIN COVER THE PAN AM QUESTION AND CONVEY LATEST GOV VIEWS.

2. DE SEDOUY SAID THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD CHALLENGED PAN AM'S RIGHT TO THIS OPERATION AND US INTERPRETATION OF THE BILATERAL. IT HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT PAN AM HAD THE FULL BACKING OF THE US GOVERNMENT FOR THESE FLIGHTS. DE SEDOUY REPEATED THE POINTS HE HAD MADE TO ATWOOD IN PARIS AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON THE TELEPHONE. HE STRESSED THE ARGUMENT THAT "UNILATERAL"

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ACTION BY THE US PUT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES TO HAVE A NEGOTIATION. HE WISHED TO INFORM US THAT PRIME MINISTER BARRE HAD NOW CONSIDERED THE MATTER. THE CONCLUSION OF THAT EXAMINATION WAS THAT UNAUTHORIZED PAN AM FLIGHTS CONSTITUTE VIOLATIONS OF FRENCH AIR SPACE. A SERIES OF COUNTER MEASURES HAS

BEEN DECIDED AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS APPROPRIATE.
(HE DID NOT SPELL THESE OUT.)

3. WE REITERATED THE US POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
INSTURCTIONS REFTEL. DE SEDOUY ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION
OF HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT US COUNTER MEASURES WOULD
HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY WHITE HOUSE. WE SAID THAT IS
EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING, BUT THAT HE SHOULD BE
IN NO DOUBT ABOUT FIRMNESS OF OUR POSITION SINCE
WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED ARE IN AGREEMENT.

4. THE ABOVE CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE EMBASSY
RECEIVED WORD FROM PAN AM REGARDING TODAY'S FLIGHT.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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